

**NEWS RELEASE FROM: SPRINGFIELD EXPRESS HOCKEY  
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**ST. LOUIS BLUES GREAT GARRY UNGER TO APPEAR OPEINING WEEKEND**

*Unger will help coach at pregame skate and drop puck opening night.*

**Aug. 28, 2016** – The Springfield Express, a Tier II Junior A member of the Western States Hockey League, announce former St. Louis Blues great Garry Unger will appear at opening night festivities when the Express start the 2016-17 season against the Wichita Thunder on Friday, September 30 at Mediacom Ice Park.



Unger will help coach during a Friday morning pregame skate with Express head coach Jeremy Law, drop the puck at center ice before the game and sign autographs during intermissions.

Unger was Law's first coach when the Express bench boss played for the Motor City Mechanics in the United Hockey League.

"It's an honor for me to be a part of the Express season opener and also support my friend and former player, Coach Jeremy Law," Unger said.

Unger spent nine seasons with the St. Louis Blues from 1970-79, four with the Detroit Red Wings, three with the Edmonton Oilers and time with the Toronto Maple Leafs, Atlanta Flames and Los Angeles Kings before retiring from the National Hockey League in 1983.

He played in 1105 games, scored 413 goals, added 391 assists for 804 points. Unger finished his career holding the NHL record for consecutive games played at 915 until Doug Jarvis became the NHL's Ironman in 1986 with 964 games.

"I was fortunate enough to play with players like Gordie Howe, Wayne Gretzky, and Red Berenson but my heart will always be with my friends and teammates of the St Louis Blues," Unger said. "My Dream would be that every hockey player has as much fun as I did on and off the ice."

While Unger has fond memories of St. Louis he said the growth of hockey in the Show Me state, especially in southwest Missouri, is not surprising.

"It's amazing to see where the Blues have taken hockey in Missouri. There was only one other rink in St Louis besides the Arena when I was traded there from Detroit," Unger said. "Now in this area you have kids programs, high school teams, Missouri State hockey, and the Springfield Express. It's very humbling to think I was a small part of that."

On the web at: [www.springfieldexpress.com](http://www.springfieldexpress.com).